

FY 2004 Performance Priorities for the Regions

AAship: OECA

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) will continue its national Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 / 2003 program priorities through FY 2004. The OECA national program priorities direct the Agency's Headquarters and regional enforcement and compliance programs to address significant national environmental, human health or regulatory problems. Implementing these priority areas is critical to OECA accomplishing its strategic objectives and program goals of reducing risks to human health and protecting the environment by assuring compliance with Federal environmental statutes. While great progress has been made in the following six priority areas they remain top priorities requiring continued focused attention:

Clean Air Act (CAA) – Air Toxics, redirection to focused monitoring and enforcement.

Clean Air Act, New Source Review / Prevention of Significant Deterioration (NSR/PSD), the priority will continue in its current direction.

Clean Water Act (CWA) – Wet Weather, emphasis will continue on the existing four sub-elements, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs); Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs); Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and Stormwater.

Petroleum Refining, emphasis is shifting to conclude work in this priority by looking at any and all remaining, and unaddressed refineries.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) – Permit Evaders, emphasis will continue to be placed on foundries, mineral processing and waste derived fertilizer facilities.

Safe Drinking Water Act – Microbial Rules, continued focus on public water systems to protect public safety by assuring compliance through enforcement and assistance.

In addition to national program priorities, OECA has developed for FY 2004, management or "performance priorities". The following three performance priorities are areas to be emphasized in directing and managing the national and regional enforcement and compliance assurance program:

Smart Enforcement, making the program more flexible and responsive to emerging issues and to obtain the most from limited resources. Focus the program on actions leading to the most significant and measurable environmental improvements.

Environmental Justice, better direct monitoring, enforcement, public access to data, compliance assistance, compliance incentives and training at environmental justice areas and environmental justice issues.

Strategic Use of Data, data collection and analyses are key elements in making the national enforcement program more strategic, effective and efficient, i.e. smart enforcement. Headquarters and the regions must ensure that data is timely and accurate to effectively manage the programs, strategically target national and regional priorities, evaluate the effectiveness of response options and provide regulatory partners and the public with correct information.